

THE ACCUSED

Dimitrios MAKRIS, Minister of Interior

Merten charges that during the occupation of Greece by the Germans Makris collaborated with the Germans and profited from the sale of Jewish property. The only proof mentioned by Merten is a photograph he claims to have showing Merten, Makris, Makris' present wife (then Merten's secretary), and Karamanlis.

On 29 September Makris announced that he was bringing suit for libel against Mertén in the Greek courts, on the basis of a Greek law (and a comparable German law) giving jurisdiction to Greek courts over crimes committed against a native of Greece by aliens in other areas.

On 4 October Liberal Democratic Party leader George Papandreou demanded that Makris and Under Minister of Defense Themelis resign while the trials were underway.

Biographic background:

Born in 1910 in Monastir, Yugoslavia, and moving several years later with his family to Florina, Greece, he studied law at Athens University and opened his own law office in Salonika in 1933. His successful law practice began to suffer during and after the Occupation as a result of his affinity for gambling and women, and he was reportedly in financial difficulty in the years just prior to his entry into politics in 1956. His political power in Salonika rests on his well organized political machine and ability to dispense favors, and he exerts influence through the newspaper Drasis, owned by a close friend. His personal reputation in the area is poor.

His political career is tied to that of Karamanlis, his friend for several years before 1956, when Karamanlis gave Makris a place on the ERE ticket. (Mrs. Makris and Mrs. Karamanlis are reportedly also close friends.) Since 1956 he has been ERE Deputy and Minister of Interior, and in charge of ERE Party organization and enlightenment, a loyal Karamanlis figurehead, and prime exponent of Karamanlis' policy of polarization between ERE and EDA, and author of the 1958 and 1959 electoral laws. As a Minister he has been totally ineffective, without a program and with only minor positive accomplishments.

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10 In he married Evdoxia Leontidou, the daughter of a pre-war Liberal Deputy from Salonika, by whom he has two daughters. She had been Merten's secretary and mistress.

Among the questionable activities attributed to Makris are lady-killing, heavy gambling and possibly interest in an Athens gambling house, accepting bribes (in the 1957 Moscow Circus appearance in Greece sponsored by a card-playing crony, in the repatriation of Slay-Macedonians from Yugoslavia, in the repatriation of Bulgarian war criminal Gelev, in the 1957 escape of pension fund embezzler Papaemmanouil). Allegations concerning his activity connected with the wartime occupation are: (1) as defense attorney in the late 1944 war crimes trials of Okhrana members he conspired with the prosecuting attorney (later ousted for unethical conduct) for the disappearance of proofs, altering of depositions, etc. and arranging acquittal or light sentences in return for payments from the defendants, (2) he was in collusion with his

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wife during Merten's return to Greece in 1957 to protect Merten who was back to recover loot cached during the war by Mrs. Makris for Merten.

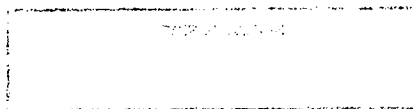
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